

Message Text

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ACTION NASA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5105

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0638

PASS NASA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION IN ERTS

REFS: A. BA 7861, 1973; B. STATE 229735, 1973; C. MORRISON

LETTER DATED 19 DEC 73 TO TASSO; D. BA 0615

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS PURSUED PROBLEM OF ARGENTINE NON-FULFILLMENT OF ERTS COMMITMENTS WITH ONE PI AND WITH CNIE OFFICIALS. PROBLEMS ARE, AT LEAST PARTIALLY, POLITICAL. SHORT TERM PROGRESS IS UNLIKELY, BUT CNIE WILL PURSUE LONG RANGE SOLUTIONS. END SUMMARY

2. THE SCIATT HAS DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF ARGENTINE NON-FULFILLMENT OF ERTS PI AGREEMENTS WITH DOMINGUEZ AND WITH CNIE PRESIDENT SAVIGLIANO AND VICE PRESIDENT TASSO. ATTEMPTS TO ARRANGE FOLLOW-ON MEETING WITH FERNANDEZ CORIA OF INTA TO THAT REPORTED IN REFTTEL A HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED.

3. BASICALLY, IN DOMINGUEZ' CASE, THE PROBLEM IS, AT LEAST PARTLY, DUE TO THE SERIOUS POLITICAL SITUATION. DOMINGUEZ, AS INDICATED REFTTEL A, DOES NOT GET ALONG AT ALL WITH HIS CURRENT LEFT WING SUPERIORS. DOMINGUEZ CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH ERTS IMAGERY, BUT FEARS HE WOULD LOSE HIS JOB/OR
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WORSE IF HE SUBMITTED REPORTS TO NASA AS REQUIRED BY HIS CONTRACT.

4. SCIATT HAS LAID ENTIRE PICTURE OUT QUITE CLEARLY TO SAVIGLIANO AND TASSO, RECOGNIZING THAT NASA IS GREATLY CONCERNED AS INDICATED, E.G., IN LAST PARA OF REF C. WHILE CNIE REPRESENTATIVES NOTED THAT AGREEMENTS WERE DIRECTLY BETWEEN NASA AND THE PI'S, THEY DID AGREE TO SEE WHAT THEY COULD DO IN THE WAY OF FULFILLING THE COMMITMENTS BY ARGENTINE PI'S.

5. THERE IS SOME DOUBT, AT LEAST IN TASSO'S MIND, AS TO WHETHER DOMINGUEZ WOULD HAVE SUBMITTED REPORTS EVEN WITHOUT THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS. IT WAS NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH DOMINGUEZ AND GARUTI PRESENTED PAPERS AT THE RECENT UN SYMPOSIUM IN BA.

6. EMBASSY EXPECTS NO RPT NO EARLY SUBMISSION OF ARGENTINE REPORTS TO NASA, BUT IS HOPEFUL THAT IN LONG TERM CNIE CAN CONVINCE OTHERS SUCH AS IN INTA OF VALUE OF FULL PARTICIPATION IN ERTS PROGRAM.

7. SAVIGLIANO STRESSED TO THE SCIATT THE VERY GREAT TECHNICAL INTEREST ON THE PART OF CNIE AND OTHER ARGENTINE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ERTS PROGRAM.

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